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PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231 ON



February 14, 2003

Anita G. Malo 02/14/2003
SIGNATURE DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Alan E. Shluzas
Serial No. : 10/075,668
Filing Date : February 13, 2002
For **RECEIVED** : AN APPARATUS FOR CONNECTING
FEB 27 2003 A LONGITUDINAL MEMBER TO A
BONE PORTION
Art Unit **TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700** 3732
Examiner : Not Assigned
Attorney Docket : A31-6014

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 CFR \$1.97 and \$1.98, and in compliance with CFR \$1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, pending applications, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed. Applicant(s) make no admission that the enclosed documents are prior art to the present invention.
2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a corresponding U.S. Patent is enclosed, or an English abstract, or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth on an attached sheet.

3. Pursuant to 37 CFR \$1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

- (a) ☐ Within three months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.
- (b) ☒ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- (c) ☐ After the period set forth in 37 CFR \$1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
 - 1) ☐ A certification is given below,
 - 2) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee (\$180.00) set forth in \$1.17(p) for consideration of this Statement, or
 - 3) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.
- (d) ☐ After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. The required certification and fee is indicated below.
 - 1) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(p) \$180, or
 - 2) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

4. Certification (if applicable):

- (a) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

- (b) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry no item of information contained in the Statement, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR \$1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, fees underpaid, or credit any overpayment with regard to this Statement to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.
6. Concise Explanation (if needed):

- (1) ☐ Below is a Concise Statement of Relevance of enclosed non-English language document(s).

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

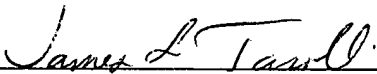
U.S. Patent No. 6,485,491

OTHER DOCUMENTS

U.S. Farris et al. Patent Appln. Publication
No. US 2003/0004512A1, published January 2, 2003, entitled
POSTERIOR FIXATION SYSTEM.

U.S. Lombardo Patent Appln. Publication
No. US 2001/0001119A1, published May 10, 2001, entitled
SURGICAL SCREW SYSTEM AND RELATED METHODS.

Respectfully submitted,



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